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NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE. NSC FOR ABRAMS/SINGH/PASCUAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2018  
TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PBTS](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [IS](#)  
SUBJECT: ANOTHER HOME DEMOLITION IN EAST JERUSALEM

Classified By: Consul General Jake Walles, per reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: On February 27, PolOffs witnessed the demolition of a Palestinian home in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Beit Hanina. Two bulldozers demolished a 60 square meter home in approximately 20 minutes. PolOffs witnessed Israeli security personnel beat the homeowner's brother during the operation. This demolition was the twenty-second of a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem since the Annapolis conference. End Summary.

Twenty Minutes, Two Bulldozers,  
One Home, No Permit  
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¶2. (C) On February 27, PolOffs visited the Ashqariya section of East Jerusalem's Beit Hanina neighborhood while Israeli security personnel executed the demolition order of a Palestinian home. By Post's count, this was the twenty-second home demolition in East Jerusalem since the November Annapolis conference. PolOffs observed Israeli security forces set up checkpoints surrounding the perimeter of the home and escort two bulldozers into the area. The demolition lasted approximately 20 minutes.

¶3. (C) Located at the end of a dead end street in a densely populated area, the home was owned and occupied by a Palestinian in his late twenties who is married with two children. Palestinians at the scene said the approximately 50 square meter home was built without a permit two years ago. PolOffs saw no evidence of clothing or household items in the rubble, which may indicate that the occupants had sufficient warning to remove such items before the demolition. Neighbors told PolOffs that they had no warning before the demolition commenced and that many of them have standing demolition orders against their homes.

Family and Neighbors  
Protest Israeli Actions  
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¶4. (C) During the demolition, Israeli security personnel kept PolOffs and neighbors at a distance, while others watched from rooftops. The homeowner's two brothers bypassed the security by motorcycle. Upon their arrival, Israeli security personnel approached the driver and, after an exchange of words, knocked him to the ground, and kicked him. Security personnel removed the second brother's motorcycle helmet and restrained both brothers during the demolition. After the demolition, they detained the brother who was driving the motorcycle.

¶5. (C) The shocked homeowner told PolOffs he had tried to obtain a permit for the home and was surprised by the sudden demolition. One Palestinian neighbor predicted the owner will

rebuild without permits. Another said "We were born here, we only want to live our lives."

WALLES